Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 19-22, with the following amended paragraph:

In some embodiments of the invention, a Routing Intelligence Unit [[send]] sends updates to other Routing Intelligence Units whenever the Routing Intelligence Unit is also asserting to the routers under its control. In alternative embodiments, the Routing Intelligence Unit may send updates when it decides that the current routes are correct.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, lines 17-20, with the following amended paragraph:

Some embodiments of this invention can take into account more parameters, such as more information about SPALs and prefixes. However, despite the utility of such enhancements, the Decision Maker is designed to work well even when it relies on information provided [[by]] solely by the edge stats measurements.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 21, to page 11, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

In case the ~~routing intelligence unit~~ Routing Intelligence Unit fails, the design is such that the edge router falls back to the routing that is specified in the BGP feed. The same ~~Behavior~~ behavior takes place in case performance routes sent by the prefix scheduler ~~Are~~ are filtered by the edge routers it controls.[[.]] Finally, in some embodiments of the invention, a flapping control algorithm is included in the design, avoiding the occurrence of undesirable excessive flapping of a prefix among the different access links.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 20, to page 13, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

In some embodiments of the invention, each of the Routing Intelligence Units sends its best local score to the others via the back-channel 530. In some such embodiments, local links are preferred over equivalent remote links. Additionally, in some such embodiments, a Routing Intelligence Unit does not send updates directly to remote routers. Rather, remote information is

assessed by the local Routing Intelligence Unit prior to being forwarded to the associated router. In embodiments of the back-channel 530 utilizing BGP, techniques such as route reflection and confederation may be used to scale the mesh. In one such embodiment, the coordination of BGP processes may be arranged to match the original router BGP mesh as closely as possible, controlling each BGP router with a separate Routing Intelligence Unit. Other arrangements for the back-channel will be apparent to those skilled in the art.

Please replace the paragraph at page 32, line 19, to page 33, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

In this thread [[702]] 602, elements are taken out of the queue in a rate-controlled manner. In some embodiments of the invention, this rate is specified by the customer. The update rate is often referred to as the token rate. Tokens are given at regular intervals, according to the update rate. Each time a token appears, the head of the queue is taken out of the queue, and considered for potential update. In case the database shows that more recent passes in Thread 1 have canceled the update request, it is dropped *without losing the corresponding token*; the next update request is then taken out from the head of the queue; this procedure is performed until either the queue empties, or a valid request is obtained. In some embodiments of the invention, when an update request that corresponds to Prefix P is determined to be current (thus, valid), one or more of the following tasks are performed:

Please replace the paragraph at page 32, lines 17-21, with the following amended paragraph:

In this thread [[702]] 602, elements are just taken out from the queue in a rate-controlled manner, according to an update rate that may be set by the customer. The update rate is often referred to as the token rate: indeed, tokens are given at regular intervals, according to the update rate. Each time a token appears, the head of the queue is taken out, and considered for potential update.